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U. S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask the Department of Justice to amend the Americans with Disability Act ADA that was signed into law July 26, 1990 to make Descriptive communication media available to the blind and visually impaired population, and to reflect the same rights that are now enjoyed by the deaf and hard of hearing population, closed and open captioning that is now provided by the Television Decoder circuitry Act 1990.

If there is such communication that's already in place, send me a copy of the regulations on it please, at Independence Inc. 1910 Haskell Ave., Lawrence Kansas 66046. tel (913) 841-0333 fax 913-841-1094.

According to conservative estimates, there are over 23 million Americans with hearing disabilities and over 8 million Americans with visual disabilities.⁰ For years these individuals have not been able to enjoy fully television programming, a medium that has come to play a dominant role in the nation's culture. Over the past 15-20 years, however, two innovations have been developed to offer greater access to this important medium for people with hearing and visual disabilities. Closed captioning -- the visual display of program material that is spoken on television -- makes "it possible for the deaf and hard of hearing to see what they cannot hear. Video description -- a more recent innovation that involves the insertion of narrative descriptions of a television program's key visual elements into natural pauses between the program's dialogue -- makes it possible for individuals who are blind or have low vision "to hear what they cannot see. There are presently no FCC requirements regarding video description.

Providing persons with disabilities access to the "tremendously powerful television medium" serves an important public interest.²³ A recent study attests to the dominant role television plays in our society. It reports that nine in ten Americans watch television on a regular basis.²⁴ American households spend an average of over seven hours every day watching television as a means of entertainment and relaxation and as a source of news and information.²⁵ Most Americans depend on television to get their news: 72 percent of Americans list it

as their primary news source.

Closed captioning and video description can offer other benefits. Closed captioning can be an effective tool in teaching literacy skills for young children as well as for the estimated 23-27 million American adults who are functionally illiterate.³¹ It also provides a useful learning aid for the approximately 3-4 million Americans learning English as a second language.³² Video description may similarly benefit individuals with learning or cognitive disabilities.³³ Finally, closed captioning and video description may provide a convenient feature for all viewers; closed captioning, for example, can be activated when the mute button on the television receiver is depressed or when noise levels in the viewing environment impede normal hearing (e.g., airport terminals, hotel lobbies, waiting rooms).

RESOLUTION: 101-431, of the Television Decoder circuitry Act 1990.

Where as the amended communication Act of 1934 to the Television Decoder Circuitry Act, 101-431, 1990 of the ADA which was not part of the ACT that was signed into law July 26, 1990.

Where as no provisions were made to enable the visually impaired and blind population to access communication like that of the hearing impaired.

Where as the Television Decoder Circuitry Act, 101-431 1990 as amended has not made descriptive media available to the visually impaired and the blind in a timely manner like that of closed and open captioning for the hearing impaired, and the deaf.

Where as the communication media has not pursued accessible media for the visually impaired and blind that is consistent with that of the provisions that are provided to the hearing impaired.

Therefore be it resolved that I call upon the Americans with Disability Act ADA July 26. 1990 to be amended to it a law so that the visually impaired and the blind population can enjoy the same rights and privileges that are offer by the communication media like what is now enjoyed by the hearing impaired.

Respectfully,
Arthur Turner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Turner".